



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,861	12/30/2003	Christopher J. Sanzo	TI-36644	3695

23494 7590 04/05/2006

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999
DALLAS, TX 75265

EXAMINER

TON, MY TRANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2816

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

31C

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/748,861		SANZO, CHRISTOPHER J.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	My-Trang N. Ton		2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



**MY-TRANG NUTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/09/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ref.

“Dual, Voltage Mode, DDR Selectable, Synchronous, Step-Down Controller for Notebook System Power” cited on PTOL 1449.

The reference discloses in a circuitry including:

at least one first timing circuit (see Functional Block Diagram, page 9) including first input, a first output, and a current source (current source $2.4\mu\text{A}$, Functional Block Diagram, page 9), the first input being electrically coupled to the first output, the first input (SSTRT1) being coupleable to at least one capacitor (capacitor connected to SSTRT1, FIG. 4) and at least one clamping element (resistor connected to SSTRT1, Fig. 4, also see page 10, lines 13-15),

wherein the current source (current source $2.4\mu\text{A}$) is operative to apply a constant current to the capacitor (see page 13, lines 3-5), thereby generating a ramped timing signal at the first input and providing the ramped timing signal to the first output electrically coupled to the first input (see page 8, description for SSTRT1, SSTRT2), and

wherein the timing signal provided at the first output of the first timing circuit has an associated first state in the event only the capacitor is coupled between the first input

and ground, and an associated second state in the event the clamping element is coupled between the first input and ground (see page 8, description section); and

a second circuit (oscillator shown in FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM, see page 5, INTERNAL OSCILLATOR) operable in a plurality of modes having at least one control input and a second output, the control input being electrically coupled to the first output of the first timing circuit (via amplifier connected to 3.5v),

wherein the second circuit (oscillator shown in FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM) is configured to operate in a first mode in the event the timing signal having the associated first state is provided to the control input via the first output, and to operate in a second mode in the event the timing signal having the associated second state is provided to the control input via the first output as recited in claim 1.

The first timing circuit comprises a soft-start circuit (see pages 6 and 13) as recited in claim 2.

Regarding claims 3-4: see the softstart time formula in page 13, line 9.

Regarding claim 5: the second circuit comprises an oscillator (oscillator shown in FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM, see page 5, INTERNAL OSCILLATOR).

The limitations recited in claims 6-8 are inherently seen in page 5 (Timers: INTERNAL OSCILLATOR) and Table 1 (Frequency Selection), page 6.

The method recited in claim 9 is similarly rejected as claims 1-2 and 5.

The method recited in claims 10-11 are similarly rejected as claims 3-4.

The method recited in claims 12-14 are similarly rejected as claims 6-8.

Claims 15-17 are similarly rejected as above claims 1-2, 5 and 9.

Art Unit: 2816

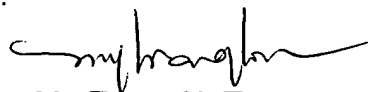
Claims 16-17 are similarly rejected as above claims 6-8 and 12-14.

The method recited in claims 18-20 are similarly rejected as claims 1-17.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Trang N. Ton whose telephone number is 571-272-1754. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m - 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



My-Trang N. Ton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

March 31, 2006